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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 006985

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2015

TAGS: [MARR](#) [AF](#) [FR](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: FRENCH INITIAL REACTION TO U.S. DEMARCHE IS
SUPPORTIVE OF SEEBRIG DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 185395

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, Reason 1
.4 B/D

1. (C) In his October 6 and 7 meetings in Paris with MFA A/S-Equivalent Director for Strategic Affairs Philippe Carre and MOD Diplomatic Advisor Bertrand Besancenot, EUR/PDAS Kurt Volker raised the SEEBRIG deployment to Afghanistan under ISAF. The initial French reaction was positive, although our interlocutors did not expand greatly on the French perspective. Besancenot said deployment to Kabul would be acceptable, given that France was also planning to increase its troop commitments, as it prepared to take over the Kabul command. Xavier Chatel, MFA desk officer covering Afghanistan, observed that the SEEBRIG deployment was a good idea and communicated GOF willingness to help. Please visit Paris' Classified Website at: <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm> STAPLETON